Therefore, I demand from the Union Government that the responsibility of the maintenance of this Highway should be entrusted to either C.P.W.D. or Border Road Organisation and get this Highway repaired.

It is also demanded from the Ministry of Surface Transport that an amount of Rs. 10 crore should be allocated immediately for the repairs of this road.

(iii) Need for Construction of Bridges on Gomti River in Chandvak, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER (Saidpur) : In Chandvak, under my constituency, the bridge over the Gomti river has been lying closed since 1986, as a result of which the free flow of traffic is obstructed. The Government of Uttar Pradesh made available funds for the construction of a bridge over Gomti river at Karakat Thana Gaddi Marg but these funds have been diverted to other places without taking approval of the Government. Both these bridges are urgently required in public interest. Shahi bridge located over the Sai river in Jalalpur on Janupur Varanasi Road is in a perfect condition but after the commissioning of a new bridge, this Shahi bridge had been closed. This Shahi bridge can be opened for the pedestrians and cyclists in public interest. The traders of Jalalpur are facing the problem of livelihood.

I, therefore, would like to make humble submission to hon'ble Minister that the Government should construct all these bridges and open them for traffic in the public interest.

(iv) Need to Take Steps to Bring Back Gandhi Memorabilia offered to Auctioners in England for Sale

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : The news that a former employee in the office of Mahatma Gandhi has offered 458 handwritten notes and papers of Mahatma Gandhi to auctioneers in England for sale smacks of national shame. It is indeed inspiring to see that a number of alert and sensible British Members of Parliament, connected with Indo-British Parliamentary forum, intervened by giving a notice for a motion in the House of Commons to bar the auction and to demand that these treasures documents be returned to the Navajeevan Trust set up in 1929 to which Mahatma Gandhi had left by a will his property and copyright to all his writings, published or unpublished. The motion further demanded that the House should appeal to Phillips Auctioneer which advertised the sale of Gandhi papers. The quick intervention of these British Parliamentarians is in sharp contrast to the non-serious reaction of the people and the Government of our country. Even one auctioneer, the Sotheby's, aghast at this senseless commercialism, refused straightaway to put them on sale.

It is ironical that an Indian, whose association with Mahatma Gandhi helped him collected these papers, chose to put 'Gandhi on sale' in order to become richer, at a time when the country is all set to celebrate the 50 years of Independence.

It is imperative that the Government should take immediate steps to get this Gandhi memorabilia back to India. The Indian Parliament should also convey its deep sense of gratitude to these British Parliamentarians for their timely intervention.

(v) Need to Convert the Existing Low Power T.V. Transmitter into a High Power Transmitter at Sitamarhi, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Sir, in Sitamarhi district of Bihar, on UHF Band, Channel 28, a low power transmitter has been functioning as a result of which reception of television programmes is not clear. Moreover, because of Nepal being very near, so long as transmission from Nepal Doordarshan continues, the reception of television programmes remains blurred in the rural areas. Only one channel is functioning in the district as a result of which the people of this area are unable to view the programmes transmitted by the other channels of the Doordarshan.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to convert the existing low power T.V. transmitter into a high power transmitter in Sitamarhi and the height of the mast should be increased so that people in the rural areas are able to watch the Doordarshan programmes.

(vi) Need to open a Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Nawabbari Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

[English]

PROF JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : I like to draw your kind attention to the fact that it is a longstanding demand of the people of the jalpaiguri and its adjacent area to open a Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri-Nawabbari. Jalpaiguri is the Divisional Headquarters of North Bengal and it has 153 tea gardens from which the Government is earning huge amount of revenue every year. It is an ideal place to open a Circuit Bench.

I do request the Government to take immediate necessary steps so that the Circuit Bench may be established at Nawabbari, Jalpaiguri at an early date.

(vii) Need to Lay New Railway Lines between Macherla and Raichur via Nagarkurnool and from Vikarabad to Krishna via Pargin in Andhra Pradesh

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : A survey had been conducted for the laying of new Railway lines